

# Glossary

accent	The way that words are <u>pronounced</u> by a person or group. Accents can be <u>regional</u> or <u>social</u> .
address term	What people <u>call one another</u> , e.g. you might call your friend 'mate', or your teacher 'Miss'.
blend word	Words that are formed by <u>combining parts</u> of other <u>words</u> — e.g. jeans + leggings = jeggings.
code-switching	<u>Talking differently</u> (using different accents or dialects) in <u>different situations</u> .
covert prestige	Gaining status in a non-obvious way by using non-standard <u>dialect</u> or <u>accent</u> , to seem more <u>down-to-earth</u> or <u>rebellious</u> .
dialect	A <u>variety of speech</u> with specific <u>vocabulary</u> and <u>grammar</u> , and sometimes an associated <u>accent</u> . Dialects can be specific to <u>geographic regions</u> , <u>age groups</u> , and <u>social</u> and <u>professional groups</u> .
dialect-levelling	What happens when different <u>dialects merge together</u> and become <u>more similar</u> .
discourse	The <u>language routine</u> that you follow in certain <u>contexts</u> , e.g. ordering food in a restaurant might involve phrases like 'Are you ready to order?', 'What are the specials?' etc.
elision	This is when certain <u>sounds</u> are <u>slurred together</u> — e.g. 'don't know' is pronounced 'dunno'.
ellipsis	When words are <u>missed out</u> — e.g. 'can meet later if better' instead of 'I can meet <u>you</u> later if <u>that's</u> better'.
Estuary English	A <u>trendy accent</u> that's emerged as features of <u>Cockney</u> and <u>RP</u> accents have <u>blended</u> together.
feedback	The things that people do to show that they're <u>listening</u> to the speaker and they <u>understand</u> or <u>agree</u> with what's being said — e.g. saying 'yes', 'mm' or 'uh huh'.
fillers	Words like 'erm' and 'um', which speakers use to fill in gaps while they're thinking about what to say next. Fillers are used to stop speakers from losing their turn in a conversation.
formality	How far speech fits in with <u>accepted conventions</u> (particularly <u>Standard English</u> ) — e.g. a radio documentary is likely to contain <u>more</u> Standard English and therefore be <u>more formal</u> than a chat between friends.
idiolect	An <u>individual</u> speaker's unique <u>way of speaking</u> , influenced by their <u>age</u> and <u>regional</u> and <u>social</u> background.
initialism	Phrases that have been shortened to the <u>initial letters of the word</u> , e.g. 'OMG' for 'Oh my God'. These are different from <u>acronyms</u> because <u>each letter</u> is pronounced <u>separately</u> .
interaction	The amount of <u>input</u> from different people and how they <u>act</u> and <u>react</u> to each other, e.g. a chat between friends might involve <u>lots</u> of interaction, but a blog might involve only one person communicating (and therefore <u>little</u> interaction).
jargon	<u>Specialist words</u> that relate to a particular <u>job</u> or <u>activity</u> — e.g. biologists might talk about 'antigens'.
micropause	A <u>pause</u> lasting <u>less than a second</u> , that's shown in this book by '(.)' on a transcript.
multi-modal talk	Talk that contains features of both <u>written</u> and <u>spoken</u> language, e.g. <u>text messages</u> and <u>emails</u> .

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non-fluency features	Things like <u>fal-false starts</u> , <u>repetition</u> , repetition and erm <u>fillers</u> that all break up the flow of speech.
overt prestige	Gaining status in an obvious way by using <u>Standard English</u> and <u>Received Pronunciation</u> to seem more <u>important</u> , <u>intelligent</u> or <u>classy</u> .
phatic talk	' <u>Small talk</u> ' expressions like ' <u>hello</u> ' and ' <u>alright, mate?</u> ' They serve a social purpose in the conversation, but their <u>actual meaning</u> isn't really that important.
power	The relative <u>importance</u> of the people involved in the talk — e.g. during a job interview the interviewer holds most of the power.
pragmatics	The <u>implied meaning</u> behind what a speaker says (e.g. " <u>Well, I'll leave you to it then...</u> " means " <u>I'm leaving</u> "). They tend to make conversation more <u>polite</u> .
paralinguistic features	<u>How</u> words are said — things like their <u>tone</u> (e.g. serious or sarcastic), <u>stress</u> and <u>rhythm</u> . Things like <u>hand gestures</u> and <u>eye contact</u> also count as paralinguistic features.
public talk	Language that's written to be <u>spoken</u> to others — e.g. <u>political speeches</u> or <u>school assembly presentations</u> .
Received Pronunciation	Also referred to as ' <u>RP</u> ', ' <u>BBC English</u> ', ' <u>Queen's English</u> ' or ' <u>Oxford English</u> '. The accent that is commonly associated with <u>Standard English</u> . RP sounds ' <u>posh</u> ' and is seen as a <u>high class social accent</u> . Using it can give the speaker <u>overt prestige</u> .
repertoire	The different <u>ways</u> that a person talks in different <u>contexts</u> make up their <u>repertoire</u> , e.g. you might speak differently to a stranger in a shop than to an old friend.
slang	The <u>informal</u> , often <u>rude</u> , words that are used most in <u>casual conversation</u> and multi-modal talk, e.g. 'cool', 'lairy', 'naff'. Slang words go in and out of use, so it's <u>changing</u> all the time.
sociolect	The <u>dialect</u> of a particular <u>group</u> of speakers (e.g. a group of friends or a group of firefighters).
solidarity	When a speaker <u>changes</u> the way they <u>speak</u> in order to <u>fit in</u> with the people around them.
sound representation	How the <u>noises</u> or <u>pronunciation</u> that you'd use during speech are <u>written down</u> (e.g. during a chat room conversation) — e.g. 'YAAAAYYY', 'woop!!!'.
Standard English	A <u>social dialect</u> of English, typically used in <u>writing</u> and <u>formal speaking</u> , that's associated with <u>power</u> , <u>education</u> and <u>class</u> . It's what many people think of as ' <u>proper</u> ' and ' <u>correct</u> ' English.
status	The relative <u>superiority</u> or <u>inferiority</u> of one particular <u>accent</u> or <u>dialect</u> over another — e.g. accents associated with <u>higher social classes</u> are seen as higher <u>status</u> than <u>more working-class</u> accents and dialects.
transcript	<u>Spoken language</u> that has been <u>written down</u> so it can be studied, showing features like <u>pauses</u> , <u>fillers</u> , <u>repetition</u> and <u>false starts</u> .
turn taking	The <u>behaviour</u> of speakers in a conversation when they <u>let each other speak</u> . People often give <u>clues</u> to indicate that <u>someone else</u> should chip in.
vague language	words or phrases that <u>fill gaps</u> in conversation rather than helping it make sense, e.g. 'sort of', 'like'. Also <u>non-specific words</u> like 'lots' or 'a few'.